

**A RESOLUTION
BY COUNCILMEMBER CLAIR MULLER**

03- R -1349

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MAYOR OR HER DESIGNEE TO RENEGOTIATE THE OPERATING AGREEMENT OR INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED IN DAWSON AND PAULDING COUNTIES, OWNED BY THE CITY OF ATLANTA, TO REFLECT LAND USES AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT WILL ENSURE THE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, AS A PART OF THE GREENSPACE PROGRAM OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta purchased the Dawson Forest property on June 23, 1972; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta purchased the Paulding Forest property on July 15, 1975; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta entered into an agreement with the Georgia Forestry Commission regarding the management of these properties on July 1, 1975; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta and the Georgia Forestry Commission continue to operate under the original agreement up to the present time; and

WHEREAS, the management of this property is not conducted as a revenue-neutral operation; and

WHEREAS, the Dawson Forest property is traversed by three major streams, including the Etowah River and the Amicalola River; and

WHEREAS, these streams, and the surrounding forests, are home to a comparably rich diversity of Georgia's plant and animal wildlife, and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, numerous agencies and localities within the Upper Etowah watershed have cooperatively developed standards and guidelines regarding the preservation and conservation of land and the protection of the streams; and

WHEREAS, the Etowah River is a water supply source for a number of communities in northern Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the analysis of conservation and preservation options for this land presents an environmental stewardship opportunity for the City of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta should respect the efforts of these parties; and

WHEREAS, as the owners of these properties, the City should incorporate responsible land uses and management practices into any agreement regarding the management of this property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, as follows:

SECTION 1: That the Mayor or her designee should renegotiate the Management Agreement, entered into with the Georgia Forestry Commission, for the properties in Dawson County (hereinafter referred to as the "Dawson Forest") and Paulding County (hereinafter referred to as the "Paulding Forest") that are owned by the City of Atlanta.

SECTION 2: That in renegotiating the Management Agreement for the Dawson Forest and Paulding Forest, the Mayor or her designee should study the feasibility of alternative preservation and conservation management arrangements.

SECTION 3: That any new or renegotiated management arrangements should reflect the efforts of those working to protect the Upper Etowah watershed, and any guidelines and practices established to ensure the continued protection of this watershed and the habitats its supports.

SECTION 4: That the Mayor or her designee should work to ensure that the City of Atlanta incorporates environmentally responsible land management practices into the management of all of its properties.

SECTION 5: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.